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Kim Dae Jung Sentenced to Death by Hanging; U.S., Japan Refuse to Criticize Unlawful Verdict

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Despite international protests and pleas, the military court of the Chon Du Hwan junta in a six-minute session on September 17 sentenced Kim Dae Jung, a former "presidential candidate" and a prominent democratic dissident leader, to death by hanging on groundless charges of plotting to overthrow the "government". The court-martial also handed out sentences ranging from two to 20 years' imprisonment to 23 codefendants found guilty of their charges.

It has become open secret in the international community that all the charges brought against Kim and other democratic dissidents are groundless and politically inspired, with the Americans and the Japanese trying to keep Gen. Chon Du Hwan in power by all means.

In a way most revealing the nature of the military trial as a political setup, the judges refused to give the full text of the verdict, with no indication of the laws invoked to find the defendants guilty. The south Korean "foreign minister" also said to Japanese Ambassador Sunobe that he had no access to the full text of the verdict.

The military court, handing down the verdict, declared, "Kim Dae Jung, once a presidential candidate, not only has committed anti-state acts, actively sympathizing with the north Korean puppet regime's contentions and line in disregard of the Republic of Korea's national policy of anti-communism, but also has instigated students and created national and social confusion which cannot be forgiven".

It should be remembered that Kim had been kidnapped from a Tokyo hotel to Seoul in August, 1973 before the formation of Hanmintong (the Congress for the Restoration of Democracy in Korea and the Promotion of Reunification, an organization of south Koreans in Japan, a splinter from the Seoul-controlled Mindan, the Union of "ROK" Residents in Japan) which the Seoul junta declared to be an anti-state organization. Another point is that Kim had been detained by the martial-law authorities kept incommunicado, before the Kwangju uprising started on May 18 and ended on May 27 with over 3,000 massacred and over 15,000 wounded at the hands of martial-law troops.

Yet he has been charged with becoming "the ringleader of an anti-state organization" and "masterminding the Kwangju uprising". Did the Seoul junta permit him to communicate secretly with Hanmintong or did the martial-law command allow him to keep contact with his followers in Kwangju?

During a two-month detention in a basement room, Kim, stripped and questioned daily, was driven "to the very point short of torture" and was not allowed to see anyone until just a few days before the August 14 opening of the trial. He was denied access to lawyers of his own choice. "State"-appointed lawyers were not given any opportunity to examine the charges before the opening of the trial.

Charges against Kim and other defendants frequently changed, strange indeed. During the month-long trial, the prosecution produced only one witness–a student who testified that one of the defendants attended a political meeting he had denied being at. The prosecution refused to produce a Kwangju student Chon Tong Nyon who was key to their charge that Kim funded the Kwangju rebellion. Instead, it introduced a deposition from him claiming he received money from Kim for the uprising.

Kim and others were not allowed to produce any witness. All the defendants declared they had been tortured by the investigators into writing false statements.

With a strict censorship imposed on the news reporting on the trial, the south Korean mass media were forced to report only the versions given by the prosecution, never testimonies made by Kim and other defendants.

Pyongyang

The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, meeting in their joint session held on September 18, adopted a joint statement (See the full text on page 5), denouncing the barbarous sentences imposed on Kim Dae Jung and 23 other democratic dissidents, the KCNA reported.

The statement branded the verdict an intolerable challenge to the south Korean people aspiring for democracy and the whole Korean nation demanding the peaceful reunification of the country. The verdict, the Pyongyang statement said, constituted an open defiance of the conscience of the world urging the suspension of the murderous trial and the release of the democratic dissidents.

Calling the act of the Chon junta a high treason against the Korean nation, the two public bodies of the DPRK condemned it as creating a new obstacle to the peaceful reunification of the country.

The United States was singled out as an active party to the crime of putting Kim Dae Jung and other democrats on a murderous trial. Japan was also described as another accomplice in the same crime.

Analysis

What is alarming are the efforts of the Japanese and American Government to defend the Chon Du Hwan junta in bringing Kim Dae Jung and other democratic dissidents before a military court on framed-up charges and call upon the world community to keep silence on the death sentence imposed on Kim and jail terms handed out to his codefendants.

American officials in Washington have said there is a good chance that Kim will eventually have his sentence commuted and perhaps be allowed to emigrate to the United States if Chon is not subjected to an attack, and Muskie and other senior State Department officials telephoned key members of Congress asking them to show restraint in their statements, the Pacific Stars and Stripes reported on September 19, quoting the New York Times, UPI and AP.

Former Premier Fukuda Takeo, a leading figure of the south Korean connection in Japan, is planning a visit to Seoul from September 24 to 26 for talks with Chon Du Hwan and other members of the junta. He cited the visit to the grave of the late strongman Pak Jung Hi.

A hard fact of life is that Kim Dae Jung and other democratic dissidents are becoming victims of the Korean policy of Washington and Tokyo with no concern about the death of democracy in south Korea. A genuine commitment to democratic values would oblige both the American and Japanese governments to join in an international chorus of criticism of the verdict sentencing Kim to death and consult with Western allies about a possible cutoff in economic and political aid to Seoul.

Mounting International Pressure For Freedom of Kim and Other Dissidents

See Press Comments on Page 4

In striking contrast with the attitude taken by the American and Japanese governments, Western powers have condemned the verdict by the military court sentencing Kim to death by hanging. Follows a round-up of an international reaction from the Western countries:

WEST GERMANY–Premier Helmut Schmidt wired a protest to the south Korean counterpart on September 18 over the death sentence imposed on Kim, a spokesman for the Government disclosed.

According to the spokesman, the cable also referred to 23 other codefendants.

Foreign Minister Genscher on September 17 called upon foreign ministers of the EC member states "to jointly protest against the verdict handed down by the Korean military court sentencing Kim Dae Jung to death and strongly warn in concert against the execution of the sentence".

Former Premier Brandt, leader of the ruling Social Democratic Party, sent a cable to Chon Du Hwan, urging him to change the death sentence handed down to Kim Dae Jung. He, expressing total surprise, declared, "We cannot understand why a patriot committed to social progress and the defense of human rights should have drawn such a sentence because of his dedication". "The sentence represents a challenge to us", he added.

FRANCE–Foreign Minister Farncois-Ponce would cancel his visit to Seoul scheduled for October if the death sentence imposed on Kim Dae Jung was executed, Le Mond said on September 19, quoted a reliable source. His visit has been planed to expedite the negotiations on the export of French-made nuclear reactors to south Korea.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT–The European Parliament on September 19 approved a resolution, urging EC governments to request Seoul to be tolerant of Kim Dae Jung.

The Speaker of the European Parliament on September 18 sent in the name of the parliament a cable to Chon Du Hwan, expressing a major concern.

SWEDEN–Foreign Minister Ullsten, cabling a message to the south Korean counterpart, urging the junta to commute the death sentence of Kim Dae Jung.

He said, "The request of Sweden is based on our country's long-standing tradition of respect for the principles of humanitarianism and the principles of democracy".

THE NETHERLANDS–A spokesman of the Dutch Foreign Ministry on September 17 said his government was disquieted by the death sentence handed down on Kim Dae Jung.

NEW ZEALAND–Premier Talboys issued a statement on September 18, expressing a deep interest in the fate of Kim Dae Jung.

He expressed a desire that in a retrial session Kim would receive a different sentence.

AUSTRALIA–Foreign Minister Peacock said on September 17 that his nation's increasingly close relations with Seoul "could be eroded if the sentence were to be carried out".

One hundred nineteen members of the Federal Parliament on September 18 issued jointly an appeal for a possible commutation of Kim Dae Jung's death sentence. The appeal was handed over to the south Korean "ambassador".

THE UNITED KINGDOM–The British Government is reportedly seeking joint diplomatic efforts with Western allies to avoid the carrying-out of the death sentence imposed on Kim Dae Jung, the Guardian said on September 18.

Amnesty International headquartered in London, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, issued a statement on September 17.

Amnesty International said it was "appalled" by the verdict and declared the trial lacked in international fairness.

The statement disclosed there were evidences showing the maltreatment of the defendants.

THAILAND–The Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee in its meeting on September 18 decided on sending a cable to Chon Du Hwan of the south Korean junta, calling for the commutation of the death sentence imposed on Kim Dae Jung.

Students in Bangkok protested the death sentence of Kim Dae Jung and staged a parody of the execution of the south Korean Opposition leader. They also burned the effigy of Chon Du Hwan.

THE UNITED STATES–Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said that if the sentences against Kim and other opponents of the military government were carried out, they would be "a devastating blow to the course of freedom and democracy in that country".

He declared, "The south Korean authorities should have no illusions that they can allow these sentences to stand without serious implications for both their country and its relationship with the United States".

He called upon the south Korean authorities to release the defendants and Kim Dae Jung "and move rapidly toward complete democracy and full respect for human rights".

Rep. Lester L. Woff, D.N.Y. and chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, said, "I am deeply concerned over the decision of the Korean military court in sentencing to death Kim Dae Jung".

JAPAN–On the night of September 17, more than 17,000 people gathered at the Hibiya Open-air Amphitheatre in downtown Tokyo in protest against the death sentence of Kim Dae Jung. The rally was sponsored by the Japan Liaison Council to Rescue Kim Dae Jung.

Major Opposition parties issued on September 17 statements, denouncing the decision of the south Korean military court to sentence Kim Dae Jung to death by hanging.

The Socialist Party held the Government responsible for the trial and urged it to take strong measures, including the recalling of the ambassador from Seoul.

The Communist Party called the Government "an accomplice" in the plan of the Chon Du Hwan junta to eliminate Kim Dae Jung.

The Clean-Government Party called upon the Government to seek for all possible steps to save Kim Dae Jung.

—By Tokyo Univ. Prof. Seki Hiro Haru—

'DPRK As I Saw It' (3)

(Continued from the previous issue)

Even compared with Japan, a developed industrial state having various kinds of schools, the DPRK has more superior educational systems because its people are provided with opportunities of free education. Surely, the DPRK is a model country in education, compared with countries of the Third World and the Communist bloc.

Already the DPRK has one million intellectuals graduated from colleges and universities, who participate in construction work. It is likely that the country will attain its educational goal of making all its 17 million people intellectuals in the not distant future, as there are 400,000 college and university students (excepting factory and agricultural college students) in 1980. Specialists account for 19.2 percent of the country's population. The task which the DPRK should achieve correctly in education in future, is developing the content of university and college education and improving the quality of study activities.

Viewed from the present situation of the DPRK, there is no doubt that a secret of its economic development is its successful education system.

The contribution of education to economic development has been overlooked in economic theories. I once stressed that when we talk about the key point of Japan's economic development after the Meiji Restoration, we should consider the development of education and various sorts of studies.

For example, after the Meiji Restoration a compulsory education system was established and popularized first. Then, middle-school-level agricultural schools, marine schools, commercial schools and technical schools were built, providing a main foundation for the economic development of Japan. Moreover, after Japan attained a certain level of economic development, it raised the technical levels of the Japanese economy by establishing higher agricultural schools, marine training schools, correspondence training schools, higher technical schools and higher commercial schools. Together with these schools, agricultural and industrial experiment stations were built so as to help increase productivity.

Of course, even in the early Meiji period, Japan had colleges and universities, including Tokyo Imperial University. However, these universities did not go beyond producing a small number of elite people. It was after the war that college and university education became popularized and provided a basis for its economic development. All these facts can be confirmed by studying the relationships between the development of GNP and a time gap.

Increased Average Life Span: 38 to 73

Education is not the only institutionally guaranteed system that carries great weight in the composition of the DPRK's GNP. People benefit from a guaranteed free medicare system and are provided with food, clothing and housing by the state. In a word, the minimum living standard is guaranteed for the people by the state.

For instance, people can receive completely free medical treatment. Medicine is developed to a very high level in the areas of both treatment and preventive medicine. The high technical level of medical treatment is proved by the increased average life span of the population. In 1945, the country's average life span was below 38, but it was raised to 73 in 1980. This means that the average life span annually increased one year.

Recently the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare showed the average life span of the Japanese—73 for males and 78 for females—on a chart, comparing it with other countries. The DPRK was not included in the "other countries". If it had been included, the chart clearly showed that the DPRK's average life span would have been shown on the chart as growing at the fastest pace in the world.

How about housing, compared with education and medicare? The reality of housing is such that people who now live in houses with two rooms and a dining kitchen, are likely to live in three-room-one-kitchen houses in the near future. In addition, running water and hot water are available to all people in their kitchen and bathrooms. This system is made possible by the *ondol* system (a special Korean under-floor heating system), which is being expanded throughout the country. In this regard, the DPRK has a more developed hot-water-pipe system than Japan, which is a developed industrial country as one of the great economic powers.

These things show that the DPRK has been industrialized on the basis of self-reliant techniques. The country has almost completed its industrialization. It increased the ratio of industrial output from 34 percent in 1956 to 74 percent in 1969. During these 14 years, its annual industrial growth rate was 11.1 percent. After that, in the Seven-Year Plan period (1970-1976) the annual industrial growth rate stood at 16.3 percent. The ratio of machine industry to the total industrial output was raise to 33.7 percent in 1976 from 5.1 percent in 1970.

Today, the DPRK has started automating all the processes of industrial production.

Living Conditions Compared with Wages

I would like to discuss the economy of the DPRK first from the standpoint of industrial production. For example, today both north and south Korea annually produces about 4 million tons of steel. It is expected that in the mid-1980's the production will reach 8 million tons, double the present figure. This means that the per capita output of steel in the DPRK (about 0.22 tons) is double that in south Korea.

Steel industry is the basic one of an industrial state. In view of the DPRK's steel output, we can easily know that its per capita GNP is 1,920 dollars and the country has economic power commensurate with this figure.

In the DPRK, necessaries of people's living are very inexpensive. Because of this, wages are also low. Low wages and the low prices of commodities are well balanced in the country.

This equilibrium between wages and prices is also supported by the systematized and guaranteed systems of medicare, education and housing, in all of which a minimum living standard is guaranteed for the people.

In the DPRK, wages are called living allowances. This could also be called "surplus compensation" given after people's living costs are met. The living allowances of the workers at the Kangson Iron and Steel Complex (S. Pyongan Province) is 9,000-40,000 yen and the average is about 12,000 yen. These figures give us an impression that their wages are very low and that there is a big difference between the lowest and the highest wage. However, if we consider the low prices of commodities, these figures are not so low as they appear. For example, one kilogram of rice costs about 100 yen and, at workshops and schools which provide food, workers pay less than only ten yen for one kilogram of rice.

It can be said that differences in living allowances are these in surplus compensation. Differences in living allowances concern only surplus compensation and not their living costs.

Indeed, workers should pay about two percent of their living allowances as house rents and also pay a little out of their living allowances to buy rice at their workshops. So "living allowances" are not "surplus compensation" in the strict meaning. However, it is wrong to regard living allowances in the DPRK as the same as wages in Western countries. I can say emphatically that the level of people's living is not so low as we would think only from the figures of living allowances.

(To be continued)

Top: apartments lining the Rakwon Street in Pyongyang. People only pay about two percent of their wages as house rents.

Left: a bathroom of one worker's apartment house. Right: an inside of a study

Invasion from North Not Based on Reality: Former Japanese Labor Minister

See analysis on page 8

The south Korean claim that it is threatened with an invasion from the DPRK is not based on reality, according to a member of the Liberal Democratic Party, Fujii Katsushi, former Labor Minister of Japan. He said this in his interview on his visit to the DPRK with the Asahi Shimbun which was reported in the September 19 issue of the paper.

The former Labor Minister visited the DPRK from September 9 to 18 as the head of a delegation of the Afro-Asian Study Group of the LDP, the ruling party here.

In the paper he said that the DPRK is making every effort to make its economy stronger.

The DPRK's leaders are in difficulties because they have to spend so much for military purposes, and they want to reduce military expenditure, Fujii told.

Now that the Government of the DPRK has said it is willing to abrogate its military alliance with the Soviet Union and China if the United States signs a peace treaty with it, the U.S. should change its politics, he said. He continued he would soon meet U.S. Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield and talk to him about this.

Fujii and other members of the mission met President Kim Il Sung, leader of the DPRK, for four hours. It was an unprecedentedly long meeting, according to Fujii.

Fujii Katsushi, former Labor Minister of Japan, visited the DPRK between September 9 and 18, leading a delegation of the LDP's Afro-Asian Study Group.

The DPRK hopes to improve relations with Japan, Fujii went on, and an agreement was reached between the delegation and the DPRK government for an expansion of economic ties. Fujii said that the agreement concerned the development of coal and iron ore resources with Japanese technology.

The LDP will try to invite a delegation from the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries to Japan next year, Fujii also disclosed.

He also expressed his hope that Kimura Toshio, former Foreign Minister and the leader of the LDP's Afro-Asian Study Group would visit the DPRK. Through such efforts, relations between the two countries would improve, Fujii remarked.

S. Korean Young Man Defects to DPRK

Li Jong Yong (32), a crewman of a seiner in Inchon, Kyonggi Province of south Korea, came over to the northern half of the Republic, according to KCNA.

His native place is Changam-ri, Polgyo-up, Posong county, South Cholla Province.

He expressed his joy, saying that having realised his desire to come over to the socialist homeland, he felt as if it were a dream.

Pointing to the motive of his coming over to the north, he said:

Born in a poor family, I barely finished a primary school and suffered from back-breaking toil from my childhood. Till the age of 32, I have undergone all sorts of maltreatment and insult, wandering about from place to place with no regular job, nor fixed abode nor family.

Resentment at the south Korean society where the rich and the poor are poles apart pierced my very marrow.

After dictator Pak Jung Hi was shot dead, I entertained a vague hope that the society will change and life will become better.

I could not repress indignation when I heard that traitor Chon Du Hwan, a murderer, slaughtered in cold blood Kwangju people who rose in demand of freedom and democracy and numerous people in Posong county, my native place, too.

I could no longer endure when I heard that traitor Chon Du Hwan took the "presidential" chair by means of swindle and fraudulence, brandishing the bayonet.

I firmly determined myself to come to the northern half of the Republic where General Kim Il Sung, the sun of the nation, enforces a clean politics for the people, convinced that this is the only way to live.

I arrived at the Military Demarcation Line after travelling several days without taking meals and studied the lay of the land there for one day. And finally I succeeded in coming over to the north under cover of night.

Li Jong Yong is now firmly resolved to devote his all to the cause of national reunification, taking a great pride in having come over to the socialist homeland against the fascist terror rule of the Chon Du Hwan junta. He is now spending happy and hope-filled days amid the warm kindred hospitality of the people in the northern half of the Republic.

American Quaker Visit to DPRK

A three-member delegation of the American Friends Service Committee just returned from its 11-day trip to the DPRK September 2-13. The three gave their impressions in a professional seminar held at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo on September 17 afternoon.

Follows an excerpt from the accounts they gave:

A three person delegation from the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania visited north Korea, September 2-13, 1980, on invitation of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

The American Friends Service Committee is a private humanitarian organization, supported by American Quakers, which works for peace and justice. We were told that ours was the first visit of an American public affairs organization to north Korea.

Members of the delegation were Stephen Thiermann, Quaker Representative at United Nations headquarters and Maud and David Easter, Co-representatives of the American Friends Service Committee based in Tokyo and specializing on Korean issues. We realize the limits of a short visit and a guided tour, but we did have opportunity for considerable observation.

The purpose of the delegation was to encourage private exchanges between the people of north Korea and the United States in the interest of contributing to better mutual understanding and a reduction in tensions.

During our stay in north Korea we saw the cities of Pyongyang and Nampo and traveled through rural areas. We visited factories, a cooperative farm, educational institutions, health facilities, homes, stores, a children's camp, and attended cultural events. Our hosts were cooperative in arranging the great majority of the visits we requested. A few appointments they suggested and we declined. They declined to show us a re-education center or take us to the DMZ, saying in regard to the latter they did not want to stress hostilities with the U.S.

We had conversations with officials, including Kim Young Nam, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party and a member of the Politburo, and Hyun Jun Gook, Vice Chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and chief negotiator at the Panmunjom Working Level Talks preparing for the North/South Premiers' meeting. These conversations took 19 hours.

In addition, we held converstaions with the Democratic Women's Union and the Socialist Working Youth League.

We extended an invitation to the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries for a return visit in the near future to the United States and our invitation was accepted. Our organization had received assurances from the United States Department of State that suitable exchanges with north Koreans would be approved, indeed encouraged. To our knowledge there has been only one visit of a north Korean to the United States. He was a member of the International Olympic Committee and went to Lake Placid last winter. Approximately 100 Americans have visited north Korea.

In our visits to various institutions and enterprises in north Korea, we were impressed with north Korea's emphasis on free education and free health care for everyone, on self-reliance at all levels of the society, and on their use of appropriate technology.

There is much evidence that north Korean agriculture has become one of the most efficient and productive in the world. Japan and north Korea share the honor of the highest rice production per hectare world-wide. North Korea's average yield of corn per hectare rivals that of the United States. The country is food self-sufficient.

In the context of the world energy crisis, north Korea's industrial development, relying as it does on its own coal and hydroelectric resources, leaves it in a very favorable position.

The north Korean society invests substantial resources in services for its children. We saw very well equipped nurseries, kindergartens, and schools in both city and countryside. We were intrigued by seeing one of the recreational camps which each child has an opportunity to attend at least one week each year.

In terms of human rights, north Korea is strong on economic and social rights, but the government appears to have little interest in freedom of press, religion or speech. Debate and criticism occur within the context of democratic centralism.

The Tokchon Coal Mine, a leading coal producer

Co-operative farmers in action

The leaders with whom we met were well-informed, articulate, and thoughtful. People appeared to us to be in good health, hardworking, and proud of their society.

On the basis of these observations, we believe north Korea has an important stake in a reduction of tensions leading to peaceful reunification of the north and south and in improvement of relations with the United States. At the same time we are convinced it is prepared to defend itself militarily.

With forces of approximately one million on the Korean peninsula, the American Friends Service Committee believes that in the interest of peace and the reduction of tension it is vital that all peaceful initiatives be pursued. AFSC also respects and supports the strong desire of most Koreans, north and south, for reunification of their country. Having just returned from Pyongyang, we would like to share with you our understanding of north Korea's position in the following areas: tension reduction between north and south, reunification, and improvement in north Korea - United States relations.

DPRK's Ea gerness for Tension Reduction

Regarding tension reduction, the north Koreans reaffirmed their willingness to proceed unconditionally with reunion of divided families and exchange of correspondence immediately, tomorrow if possible.

They also reasserted their willingness to undertake economic and cultural exchanges with south Korea without preconditions.

Despite reports to the contrary at the time of Congressman Solarz's visit, officials stated to us that north Korea's proposal still stands for mutual troop reductions to the level of 100,000 on each side, or less.

On the agreement of both sides, north Korea would remove military personnel and facilities from the Demilitarized Zone.

They favor reduction of military expenditures on both sides and an end to the introduction of weapons from foreign countries. The continued supply of weaponry is making the situation more complicated with each passing day. North Korea also proposes to conclude a peace treaty between the north and south.

Reunification is Ideal of Nationalism not Communism

Recognizing the near universal desire of people north and south for reunification, AFSC is aware that the task of bringing together two systems with 35 years of different development will not be easy.

Consequently, we feel all proposals for a process leading to reunification deserve serious consideration. North Korea is proposing a Confederation in which the existing economic, social, and political systems of the north and south would remain as they are. We were specifically assured that from their point of view foreign investment in the south could not only continue but be increased under Confederation. Under Confederation they insist that each side must not interfere in the other side's internal affairs, must not impose its view on the other side, and people should be free to live wherever they want. A spokesman said, "We are communists but we give priority to the ideal of nationalism not communism."

Under Confederation, north Korea proposes that a national commission composed of equal representatives from the north and south would seek agreement on economic collaboration, on strengthening the bonds of the national culture, and on joint diplomatic representation. This national commission would also discuss how to conduct military affairs in a unified way. An official said that it is the attitude taken toward solution of these problems which will be crucial.

Officials repeatedly stressed the view that a unified Korea must remain neutral, independent, and non-aligned. We consider this position is consistent with north Korea's active involvement in the Non-Aligned Movement where they emphasize the importance of independence and dismantling of blocs.

Hopes for U.S.-DPRK Relations

On the question of United States - north Korean relations it is evident to us that they not only favor cultural exchanges but are willing to explore the idea of reciprocal trade. In their view the function of any trade with the United States would be more important as a tension-reduction measure than to meet the needs of their own economy.

They would also be prepared for direct government to government talks. They reiterated their position that it would be appropriate for south Korea to participate as an observer in any talks in which the south would be affected, but they say it would be necessary and reasonable for the United States and north Korea to confer jointly on which areas of discussion would require the involvement of the south. The north has said there are various forms in which talks with the U.S. could take place.

North Korean officials told us the paramount issue in their minds is to change the Korean War Armistice Agreement into a peace treaty. They feel this will require withdrawal of all United States military forces. The importance the north attaches to progress on achieving a peace agreement was underlined by President Kim Il Sung's recent statement that his country would abolish its military alliances with the Soviet Union and China if the present armistice agreement was replaced by a bilateral peace treaty.

The position of the American Friends Service Committee is that the United States should prepare to withdraw its forces as a step toward achieving this treaty.

The American Friends Service Committee recognizes that there have been hostile relations between our government and that of north Korea. We are encouraged that the State Department of the United States has expressed interest in contributing to better mutual understanding. During our visit to north Korea, we were also encouraged to hear a number of leaders say, "Yesterday is yesterday, and today is today. Let's look to the future and not to the past."

World-Wide Criticism of Kim's Death Sentence

Foreign Comments

Following are gists of editorials carried in the Japanese newspapers in connection with the south Korean court-martial's decision which had sentenced dissident leader Kim Dae Jung to death: (Subtitles are ours .... Ed.)

Lack of Trial Principles

The south Korean court-martial sentenced Kim Dae Jung to death on charges of violating the National Security Act, plotting and inciting rebellion and other counts. The ruling is extremely regrettable.

It is inevitable that criticism of the "Chun Doo Hwan Regime" will grow in Japan to the point of calling for a change in Japan's relations with south Korea.

Kim Dae Jung is a believer of nonviolence and free elections. To our eyes, his activities looked just like ordinary political behavior.

The conduct of the court-martial was not convincing in view of trial principles based on evidence and due process of law.

The proceedings of the trial in which Kim Dae Jung and 23 others were examined lasted only a little over a month with 19 hearings. That the case could have been fully considered is inconceivable. The choice of the defense counsel members was also questionable.

The court-martial failed to clarify the relationships between the incident in which the defendants were allegedly involved and the applicable laws.

The coverage of the trial by reporters was limited and the news stories were censored. Statements concerning duress and torture and diplomatic relations are said to have been deleted.

The strong suspicion remains that the trial of Kim Dae Jung proceeded in line with a scenario written by the south Korean authorities and a certain political schedule.

Does the military trial of Kim Dae Jung symbolize the democracy suitable to south Korea as advocated by President Chun Doo Hwan in his inaugural speech?

We feel like resisting the policy of maintaining close relations with South Korea under the "Chun Doo Hwan Regime" as a member of the Free World. The government must adopt a resolute attitude and not hesitate to review the political solutions to the abduction of Kim Dae Jung.

(YOMIURI SHIMBUN, Sept. 18)

Reexamining Policy Toward Seoul

In his final statement last Saturday, Kim denied the charges, including plotting an insurrection, and said he had no intention to topple the ROK government but just tried to democratize his country. He also denied alleged relations with an anti-ROK government organization in Japan.

The judges turned deaf ears to such statements. We could surmise Kim's disadvantageous position when we heard him state that he was confined in a basement room for about two months and underwent investigations for 15 hours a day which was tantamount to torture.

Moreover, a statement by President Chun Doo Hwan prior to the trial was ominous. He said that Kim had been deeply influenced by communism and was a politician who tried to solve problems through violence. Referring to the Kwangju riots in spring of this year, Chun said the disturbances were a "strategy" of Kim who tried to become president by taking advantage of the turbulent situation. The president also denounced Kim as a "poisonous element" or "fearful enemy". It was under such circumstances that the trial was held.

We remember the execution of another presidential candidate who challenged the late former ROK President Syngman Rhee for "plotting against the government in conspiracy with the North". We wonder if the Chun government.is trying to repeat what the notorious Rhee regime had done.

We hear that men in power in the ROK do not recognize the existence of rival influences and look upon these forces as enemies. They suppress disputes,-which are necessary for a democracy to function, and criticisms of the government. The trial of Kim and others gave evidence of this to a considerable extent.

We hope that the ROK authorities concerned would take another look at the latest verdict when the case is possibly taken up at a higher military tribunal feelings among other people.

Another point which causes a psychological problem for many Japanese is that the Kim case is inseparable from his abduction in August 1973 and the subsequent political settlement. We believe many Japanese now regret the political decision which prevented the restoration of Kim's original condition, and will seek a review of the settlement.

We remember that West Germany once filed a strong protest with the ROK against the latter's forced repatriation of Korean students and musicians from Germany, and announced its intention to suspend a part of its economic aid. The Japanese government should become fully aware of this and must reexamine its policy towards the ROK.

(MAINICHI SHINBUN, Sept. 18)

No Hope for Democracy

South Korea seems bent on moving in a disturbing direction. If Kim is executed, there may be no hope of south Korea's developing into a democratic and open society.

The voices of the defendants could be heard intermittently through the news black-out. Kim asserted, "I have never planned to overthrow the Government by violence. With the support of the people, I was confident of winning the presidential election". He also asserted, "My only desire is to see democracy established".

The court-martial sentenced Kim to death for the crime of rebellion, in accordance with Article 87 of the criminal law. The charge of violating the National Security Act, the most serious of the charges that were preferred against Kim, was dropped to be replaced by this new charge. The earlier charge was dropped presumably because the act was applicable only in the case of the formation in Japan of the Conference for the Restoration of Democracy in South Korea and The Promotion of Unification (Kanminto) This charge contravened the terms of the political settlements reached by the Japanese and south Korean governments. In these settlements, it was agreed that Kim should not be held repsonsible for his words and activities in Japan.

The desire of the Chun Doo Hwan regime to find Kim Dae Jung guilty at any cost could be clearly discerned in the trial. Kim wanted a new government to be established in a democratic way.

It is absured to pretend that the views and values of the Government and the military are wholly right, and those of their critics wholly wrong.

There have been many examples of the frailty of a crude dictatorship in modern times.

(ASAHI SHINBUN, Sept. 18)

Over 13,000 Koreans here demonstrating downtown Tokyo, chanting slogans, "Chon Du Hwan Resign At Once!" and "Save Kim Dae Jung!"

Koreans Here

More than 13,000 Koreans here waged a peaceful demonstration through downtown Tokyo, to protest against the verdict of Seoul's court-martial which sentenced dissident leader Kim Dae Jung to death. They chanted slogans demanding the immediate release of all the south Korean democrats.

The placard-and banner-carrying demonstrators shouted, "Let's Slay Fascistic Suppression Committed by Chon Du Hwan Junta! " and "Release All Political Prisoners At Once!"

The demonstration followed a rally held in the Hibiya Music Amphitheater in the Japanese capital as it was sponsored by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun).

In his keynote report at the rally, Pak Chae Ro, vice-Chairman of the Chongryun CSC denounced the Chon junta for intending to inflict death on the former presidential candidate Kim Dae Jung, arresting and imprisoning a large number of democrats, which he claimed put an end to democracy in south Korea.

On hand were several Japanese guest speakers who expressed fervent support for the Korean demand.

Japanese Protests

Amid growing protests against a south Korean court-martial's pronouncing the death sentence on dissident leader Kim Dae Jung, a mass-rally to protest against the sentencing was held in Tokyo on September 17. About 17,000 people attended a national rally at the Hibiya Music Amphitheater in Tokyo on the same night.

At the rally which was sponsored by the Japan Committee for the Rescue of Kim Dae Jung, Makieda Motofumi, Chairman of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (Sohyo) made an opening address.

Makieda expressed anger at the death sentence and said that the former presidential candidate should not be allowed to die.

Others who spoke were Asukata, Ichio, Chairman of the Japan Socialist Party; Tachiki Hiroshi, Director of the Japan Communist Party's International Bureau; Den Hideo of the United Social Democratic Party; Utsunomiya Tokuma, a member of the Upper House; Aochi Shin, a representative of the Japan Committee for the Rescue of Kim Dae Jung; and Nakayama Chinatsu of the United Progressive Liberals.

Meanwhile, some of the 250,000 members of the All Japan Harbor Workers' Union (Zenkowan) launched a nationwide protest rally during their work hours on September 18.

About 15,000 members took part in the rally, held at 150 branches ranging from Hokkaido to Okinawa. Some members of the union gathered in Osaka, Yokohama, and Moji ports sent a protest cable to the south Korean "embassy" in Tokyo.

The Japan Municipal Traffic Worker's Union (Toshiko) and All-Japan Day Workers' Union (Zennichijiro) instructed their members totalling 53,000 and 81,000, respectively, to hold similar protest rallies at their workplaces on the same day.

The death sentence also resulted in demonstrations and sitins in various other parts of Japan.

Around 17,000 Japanese protestors gathered downtown Tokyo denounced the death sentence handed down to Kim Dae Jung by the Seoul military court. They carried placards reading "Let's Denounce Death Sentence!" and "Save Kim Dae Jung!"

Joint Statement of Fatherland Front, Peaceful Reunification Com.

PYONGYANG, September 18 (KCNA) – The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification September 18 denouncing the verdict of death penalty passed on democratic figure Kim Dae Jung by the south Korean military fascist clique.

The joint statement reads in full:

The Chon Du Hwan military fascist clique who had been continuing illegal trials of south Korean democrats staged the final trial at the "ordinary military court" on September 17 and committed another high-handed fascist barbarity of sentencing Kim Dae Jung to death and 23 other democrats to heavy penalties.

The trials were conducted through downright fraudulence, with the elementary democratic procedures ignored.

At the court, the democrats denied in unison the charges enumerated in the faked-up "indictment" and declared their innocence and exposed and condemned the crimes of the Chon Du Hwan fascist clique.

Noting that the trials were a "political suppression" and "it is shameful to make victims of guiltless people to seize power", Kim Dae Jung and other democrats denounced the fascist clique "for suppressing democracy and all criticisms". Declaring that "democratization is the only way for preventing the split of our nation", they persistently insisted on the justice of their activities and strongly demanded that the Chon Du Hwan group "make public its misdeeds and step down".

The military fascist clique utterly ignored these just arguments of the democrats, well-founded and logical, and at last passed capital punishment and heavy penalties on them on the preposterous charges of "plot of rebellion" and "violation of the national security law and the anti-communist law".

This reckless fascist barbarity of the Chon Du Hwan group outdistancing the former dictator is a never-to-be-condoned treachery to the south Korean people who demand democracy and the entire Korean people who desire the peaceful reunification of the country and an open challenge to the conscience of the world demanding a stop to the murderous trial and the release of the democrats.

We bitterly denounce the thrice-cursed criminal scheme of the military fascist clique to impose penalties upon the south Korean democrats, branding it as an ignorant human-butchery of the gang of murderers without a shred of conscience and reason and a grave treachery to the nation strangling democracy and laying another hurdle in the way of national reunification.

The trial of Kim Dae Jung and other democrats are dark trials marked by illegality and lawlessness and proof despicable political trials without precedent.

The military fascist clique imposed upon the democratic figures fabricated charges" devoid of any reasonableness or ground, which can convince no one.

As everyone knows, all the persons who were sentenced to death and heavy penalties this time are democrats and patriots who struggled devotedly for the democratization of the south Korean society and the peaceful reunification of the country.

They conducted open political activities fairly and squarely, not withdrawing their just demands for democracy and reunification even under the harsh *yusin* system and their activities enjoyed deserving support from the people of all strata. Such demands and activities of the democrats are entirely just either from the national point of view or humanitarian point of view. They are lawful even under the present "legal" system of south Korea. They can never be a crime.

As for Kim Dae Jung, there is no ground at all to sentence him to death by branding him as a "procommunist element" and charging him with "backstage manipulation of rebellion".

The death sentence on Kim Dae Jung is a preposterous and shameless fascist arbitrariness which cannot be "justified" even by their fascist evil laws.

Even Pak Jung Hi who left no means untried in his attempt to kill Kim Dae Jung, could not dare "indict" him as a "pro-communist element", though there were the notorious "national security law" and "anti-communist law" at his disposal. Therefore, after the death of Pak Jung Hi, the south Korean justice authorities could not but "reinstate" him through a "strict examination".

This means that the south Korean authorities themselves withdrew all the "suspicions" against Kim Dae Jung in the past period and confirmed his innocence by "law".

Nevertheless, they sentenced him to death on the charge of "pro-communism" now by the very "law" whereby they had "reinstated" him. Can there be such fraudulent trial of lawlessness and illegality in any other place? It is also a shere lie that Kim Dae Jung "manipulated behind the scene" a "plot of rebellion". It was a lawful political activity as a prelimination for him to have called for a "peaceful power change" and struggled for democracy. It can never be a "rebellion" or a "plot". As for the demonstrations and uprising in which south Korean students and people rose up, they were not caused by someone's backstage manipulation, they were a struggle of the south Korean people themselves against the military fascist clique's brutal suppression and for regaining freedom and rights.

This notwithstanding, they had wrested false confessions from the democrats by beatings and tortures and sentenced them to capital punishment and heavy penalties without a clear ground, ignoring the just assertions of the democrats and witness applied for by the defense counsel. These trials are illegal ones run through with unilateral threats, swindle and fabrications and a dirty political put framed by the military fascist clique from the beginning to attain their sinister aim, not to decide whether the charges were true or not. The trials were so sordid that the shameless rascals kept them in secret under the watch of the world and clamped a strict news blackout on them.

But, however hard the military fascist clique may try to invent lies and conceal facts, they can never veil their sinister intention.

The verdict passed upon Kim Dae Jung and other democrats is an offspring of filthy intrigues to murder Kim Dae Jung who has been publicly recognized as an influential "presidential" candidate and satisfy their greed for power. It is also a wholesale political terrorism aimed to destroy the democratic forces and totally put down the trend of democracy and sentiments of national reunification.

By imposing capital punishment and heavy penalties upon Kim Dae Jung and other democrats the Chon Du Hwan group added another indelible crime to its blood-stained filthy record and brought into bolder relief its ugly nature as a truculent murderous gang, a despicable political careerist and the enemy of democracy and reunification stooping to any infamy democracy to seize power and seek fascism and permanent division of the nation.

As shown by the tragic Kwangju incident and the ensuing fascist rampage in south Korea, the Chon Du Hwan group is a truculent murderer whose business is to make a sport of human lives at the point of the bayonet, the very one involved in the "rebellion" who usurped "power" by violence, blocking the course of peaceful political development in south Korea and a pack of traitors to the nation who pursue fascism and permanent division of the nation.

It is a well-known fact to the world that today the humanbutchery openly committed by the Chon Du Hwan group in disregard of the unanimous voice of denunciation of the world is backed and encouraged by the United States.

The United States backing the Chon Du Hwan fascist system and scheming to create "two Koreas" is the very one obstructing the democratization of the south Korean society and the reunification of Korea and an actual accomplice in the murderous trials of Kim Dae Jung and other democrats.

The Japanese authorities who now defend the Chon Du Hwan fascist clique in the persistent scheme to kill Kim Dae Jung, evading their responsibility for the ambiguous "political settlement" of "Kim Dae Jung kindnapping case" in the past, cannot escape either the denunciation by world public opinion as the same accomplice.

If the United States and the Japanese authorities do not want to be accomplices in the brutal murder of the south Korean democrats, they should denounce the Chon Du Hwan group, lend an ear to the appeal of conscience of the world people to save the democrats and keep pace with it.

The bayonet cannot reverse justice and injustice. It is never allpowerful.

Today the military fascist clique, brandishing the swords, may arbitrarily impose "charges" upon the empty-handed democrats and penalize them. But they cannot smother the demand of the people for freedom and rights and the desire of the nation for reunification nor prevent the explosion of the pentup resentment of the south Korean people.

If traitor Chon Du Hwan, turning his face away from this undeniable truth already proven by history, dare commit the foolish act of imposing penalties upon the democrats under the patronage of the United States and Japanese authorities, he will certainly have to pay dearly for his crimes against the south Korean people and find himself, sooner or later, facing judgement by history.

The penalties on Kim Dae Jung and other democrats are not only a question concerning their lives, but also a question of the destiny of democracy in south Korea and, furthermore, a grave question concerning the peaceful reunification of Korea and peace in Asia.

We express the conviction that the governments, political parties, organizations, personages of all circles and peoples of all countries of the world, democratic international bodies and organisations which treasure human rights, democracy and peace will lift up louder voices of justice and exert a greater influence to immediately stop the murderous trials by the Chon Du Hwan group, save democratic figure Kim Dae Jung and have all the political prisoners released.

Japanese Lawyer:

Kim's Charges Medley of Contradictions

Seoul's decision to a death sentence handed down on south Korean dissident leader Kim Dae Jung gave a serious shock to legal experts here.

Sazaki Hidenori, a prestigious lawyer and member of the Japan Committee to Investigate the Kim Dae Jung Trial, in his lecture held on September 12, portrayed legal grounds of Kim's death sentence as a medley of contradictions and raised a number of questions from the legal standpoint.

Follows an excerpt from his lecture: (Subtitles are ours ....Ed.)

Shotgun Examination

The court-martial of Kim Dae Jung and other defendants was carried out at a shotgun pace: On July 31 they were indicted on charges of plotting against the Chon Du Hwan-led iron-fisted military regime; on August 14 the first court-martial session started; on September 4 all the examinations of their charges were finished; and on September 11 the closing argument of the prosecutor was made and the court-martial sentenced him to death as we have anticipated.

From our standpoint as lawyers, it is against common sense and unthinkable that a trial should have been held in such a pace of an important incident which may warrant sentencing a defendant to death. In Japan, if the authorities intend to finish the trial as early as possible, it takes at least several months to finish the examination.

It is entirely onthinkable that the examination should be finished in twenty days from the day when the first hearing was held. It is very questionable that the Seoul authorities actually regarded the trial or not. It is said that the prosecutor did not make public a written evidence in spite of an urgent request raised by Kim's lawyers. It is a stupid thing. Generally, an attorney, in advance, has a right to pass an eye over a written evidence or a written document of what his client and witnesses said during their investigations. This right is also clearly stated in the Criminal Procedures Act of south Korea.

Judging from the fact that the attorney could not pass an eye over even the written evidence, maybe he couldn't make even an effective defense. What applied me is that the indictment was issued on August 14 the day the first session was opened.

In addition, the families of defendants submitted 8-point demand including that of an open trial. The trial was finished, as the prosecutor turned a deaf ear to their demand. Even the minimum demand of the defendants and their families was not admitted. Therefore, it is highly doubtful that the court-martial was worthy of the name as a trial.

Why Civilians Should Be Put On Court-Martial!

I expressed my astonishment at seeing the indictment which have various problems.

In Japan those things which must be written in the indictment are prescribed in Article 25 of the Criminal Procedures Act. Of course, south Korea has a similar law and that how to institute a legal action or to write an indictment is clearly described in Article 254 of the law.

This time, the trial was carried out by the military tribunal. It is very strange that all defendants at the court-martial are civilians. Why should civilians stand before the military tribunal?As for this question, the Seoul authorities explained that any civilians who violated martial law with the president's authority should be tried at the court-martial. This is the exclusive bests of their claim.

However, it is very strange. It is natural that the defendants to protest that it was very unreasonable to hold a military tribunal and to examine their charges is not withing the jurisdiction of the court-martial, when the first trial started.

Ambiguous Charges

In the indictment, as for charges, there are some references on the date of Mr. Kim's birth and his birth place. Some references on Kim's birth can't be help being targets of charges. However, the date of his birth, January 16, 1924 was written under the title of charges. There is no explanation about the difference between the date of his birth written in the first part of the indictment and that in charges.

There are also long references on his political career, political activities and his speeches made. But it is not obvious that which parts will come under the charges.

In addition, in connection with the "political settlement" reached with Japan on Kim's abduction in 1973, there are also some references about Kim's activities in Japan though the two governments agreed in the settlements that Kim should not be held accountable for his activities to explain about this. Seoul said that the references do not mean charges but a only fact or an explanation of backing of indictment. However, as the references were written as charges, there are some doubts that judges will have a foregone conclusion. Therefore, the references are not simple explanation but target of court-martial or charges itself.

Among the provisions applied against his charges which have a possibility of receiving death sentence is Article 1 of the National Security Law. In the National Security Law, there is a clause on an anti-state organization which expressly states that a death sentence should be imposed on the ringleader of an organization plotting to overthrow the government.

According to the indictment, the prosecutor held viewes that Kim violated the National Security Law because of his involvement in the Kwangju incident or relations with the National Congress for Restoration of Democracy in South Korea and Promotion of Unification (Hanmintong). The President of south Korea views it as an anti-state organization. However, it is a well-known fact that Hanmintong is not an anti-state organization.

S. Korean Monthly "Sin Tong-A"

Scenes of Labor Disputes (2)

(Continued from the previous issue)

The question of wage raise carried greater weight in labor disputes. Last year alone, 70 percent of the labor disputes were on wage hike issues. Besides, 9.5 percent concerned safety and health related labor accidents and occupational diseases, and 3–4 percent were about accident compensation, labor contracts, and working hours. This is quite natural as employers and employees are linked by wages. This proves nothing other than the fact that the wage of workers of our country is still on a low level.

On the wage issue, a labor union leader said, "We have no intention to harm the interests of our company. We just demand a minimum cost of living, including dependents' allowances."

70% of Labor Disputes Caused by Wage Hike Issue

In the 1970s excepting a few years, the growth rate of labor productivity exceeded that of real wages. Nevertheless, enterprises gave priorities to the strengthening of international competitiveness or disregarded the improvement of workers' conditions. Trade unions insist that enterprises have accumulated profits.

A certain worker said, "Our enterprise asked us to endure for a time, as in the 1980s our country will become a welfare state. Then, we have worked hard and have maintained patience. Even if the enterprise says that if our country attain a $15 billion export target, we will earn a $1,500 income, I d n't care a damn about such a promise."

The authorities have handled a labor issue as a criminal case, not as a social problem. As the authorities protected the interest of enterprises and conspired with them in this aspect, labor questions have been thoroughly covered up for a long time.

The incidents of the Dongwon Consolidated Coal Mining Co., Ltd. and the Y.H. Trading Co., are but visible peaks of an iceberg. In this situation, it may well be that many other labor disputes will break into the open.

Examples are: The Pusan and Masan incidents of last October (more than 10,000 students and people staged anti-government demonstrations in Pusan and over 3,000 in Masan) and the Sabuk incident in mid-April (the miners and their families took to the street and captured an ammunition storehouse and a police box. They armed themselves with explosives and 1,000 rifles.)

Sit-in Strikes For Wage Raise

Follow some of the wage hike strikes of workers that occurred this year.

* About 700 employees of the Inchon Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Hyundai Corp. (one of the most important south Korean financial groups) put down their tools and went on a sit-in from noon, Apr. 24, presenting an eight-point demand, including a wage raise.
* About 600 workers of the Dong Yang Machinery Corp. (Yongdungpo-ku, Seoul) staged a sit-in strike on Apr. 28, demanding an average 40 percent increase in the monthly wage of 60,000 won (22,000 yen in Japanese currency) and a 40 percent increase in bonus payments.
* About 350 workers of the Shin Shin Lumber Co., Ltd., in Inchon City, called a sit-in strike from the afternoon of Apr. 23, demanding a 39% wage increase.
* Workers of the trade union of the Sam Sung Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. affiliated with the Korean Chemical Workers Union, staged a 5-day sit-in from Mar. 27.
* The Kuk Je Pharma. Ind. Co., Ltd. reached a compromise agreement with its workers, accepting their demand for an average 35 percent increase in female's initial pay (daily wage).
* About 500 workers of the Sam Yung Chemical Co., Ltd. staged a sit-in strike from noon, Apr. 23, against the company's offer of a 20 percent pay hike. After a 5-hour strike, the workers and the company agreed to a 25 percent wage hike.
* Workers of the Tae Heung Trading Co., Ltd. on Apr. 22 occupied its main office and staged a sit-in strike when the company told the workers of its intention to limit the pay increase to 13 percent.
* Workers of the Korea Yakult Mfg. Co., Ltd. rejected overtime work from May 13, demanding a wage raise and increased bonus payments. The workers and the company agreed to a 25 percent pay increase.
* About 500 employees of the Korea Optical Ind. Co., Ltd. at the Kuno Industrial Complex on Apr. 25 demanded a 30 percent wage increase and a 400 percent bonus a year and staged a sit-in strike.

Most of the enterprises in the Masan Free Export Zone tried to hold down wage hikes within 15 percent this year. As workers resisted this attitude of the companies, labor disputes occurred frequently.

* One hundred and forty workers of the Korea San Yang Industrial Company on May 7 demanded a 40 percent wage hike but their demand was rejected by the company. In protest, the employees tendered their resignations en masse to the company and went on a strike.
* One hundred and fifty members of the Haeun chapter of the Kunsan branch of the Korea Dockers Union staged a strike from Aug. 24, demanding an increase in operation allowances.
* About 600 workers of the Changwon factory of the Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co., Ltd. staged a sit-in strike on Apr. 24, demanding a 40 percent pay increase, establishment of a bonus system, retroactive payment of a 300 percent bonus for last year and a 500 bonus this year.

The labor relations commision of the Pusan district started compulsory arbitration between the labor unions and eight big shoes makers in Pusan, including the Kuk Je Company with 70,000 employees, after the dispute had continued for 15 days.

The labor relations commision of the Pusan district on Apr. 18, for the first time this year, issued an arbitration award ordering a 22 percent wage increase and a 200 percent bonus for the 70,000 workers of eight big shoes makers in Pusan. (To be continued)

Korean Paintings "Dance"

By Song Hyo Jun

SHORT STORY

Signalman First Class (1)

By Pak Wung Gol

Introduced here is a DPRK short story titled "Signalman First Class" written by Pak Wung Gol on Feb. 8, 1952, during the Korean War (1950–53).

The hero of this story is Li Nam Gil, Signalman First Class, 19 years old, whose native place is Kwangyang in Cholla Province. His father went to Mt. Jiri (N. Kyongsang Prov.) to wage guerrila struggles and his mother was swagely tortured by the enemy before his eyes.

Nam Gil devoted his life to the effort to open the communication lines disrupted by the enemy bombing in order to rescue his company. The company, faced with an enemy attack, ran short of handgrenades and ammunition.

In order to link the line he climbed up the ridge, where he was seriously wounded by the bombs the enemy dropped. The tools and extra lines he carried with himself fell off when he was blown into the mid-air.

He remembered the arm muscles of his mother convulsed when the enemy tortured his mother by the electric shock.

Determined to give his life for the victory of the war, he picked up the two ends of lines with his hands, mustering all his strength and coiled one around a finger of either end. Finally, the line opened and the company could contact with the battalion.

Follows the first part of a gist of this story:

The whole ridge was still veiled in smoke from the intense enemy fire. Some of the gasoline drums that the enemy had dropped were still burning in the valley. The air was choking–dust and powder smell, mixed with smoke. One could hardly open his eyes.

Nam Gil, the signalman, was almost groping his way back to battalion headquarters after fixing the severed communication lines. Now and then bombs burst around the headquarters, sending up high columns of dirt in the air. When he was in the passage tunnel, he suddenly felt his legs giving away. Evidently the feeling of safety, now he was in the battalion headquarters–overcame him and he just sank to the ground and sat there as if he had not a thing to do. The air was fresh and he breathed in deeply like a person drinking after a long thirst. He was no longer choking.

It was sometime before he pulled himself his feet by holding to the tunnel wall. Then he thought of the "sir-stunt" he had performed a few minutes ago.

He was coming along the mountain path. Suddenly an enemy bomb exploded so near he turned an involuntary somersault. Now he checked himself to see if he had been hit by a shrapnel. But he found all right–only his uniform was torn. His tools and a few spare lines were hanging from his belt as they should. So everything was alright, he said to himself. This thought brought a smile to his lips.

Since the battalion came here– that was three days ago–he had made some 70 repairs of the line in the rain of enemy bombs and shells. And without a scratch, too! Now he grinned broadly, he felt good. No matter how desperate the enemy raged, it seemed, they could not do any harm to him. He thought of the conversation he had had with the army surgeon before leaving the field hospital. Battle news kept coming in, and he just refused to stay in the hospital. The medical officer warned him of malaria he had contracted, saying that he would have an attack the following day. But unexpectedly no fever came. He felt now as if he could go on, say, ten days even without a drop of water in a sea of fire. He looked round. There had been pines and flourishing vines here before, but now all he could see was a field of sand about knee-deep. To be sure, there still stood pines here and there, but all were singed, torn and scarred by shells and bombs. Shells were still pelting the trees. He grumbled: "Bastards! Pound away! There is still plenty of dirt left!

When the enemy shelling stops, there would be another air raid, followed by another offensive.

During the past few days the enemy had attempted to climb up the ridge over thirty times, this morning alone ten times. They came in waves. When the first wave broke, the second came, then the third . . .

The telephone lines between the battalion and the company had to be kept open at all times. The battalion had to be kept informed constantly by the company of the enemy's movements, and the battalion had to direct the company's fire, keep it supplied with bullets, hand-grenades and reinforcements. Nam Gil remembered the words of the battalion commander: "Communication lines are the nerve system of the army."

He removed the receiver and, holding it in his hand, went into the tunnel. There was a dim light, but the place seemed dark to one just coming in from outside.

Blinking, he tried to focus his eyes. Suddenly there was a voice.

"Well, how did it go?"

It was the battalion commander. Now Nam Gil could see his full face by the dim light.

"Battalion Commander, Li Nam Gil, Signalman First Class, reporting. The lines are fixed."

Hardly were the words out of his mouth when the adjutant of the commander put in: "What do you mean fixed? The lines are cut." Now Nam Gil's feeling of exultation was gone. He had to swallow the bitter pil of a signalman's lot - it does not matter how many places you fix, if you miss one single cut, then they will give it to you.

Nam Gil did not know what to do, he just stood there shuffling from one foot to the other. In one corner someone was trying to get "River Rakdong, River Rakdong." It was the platoon leader's voice. That was the line Nam Gil had fixed–at least he thought he had.

But the commander was sympathetic. He told Nam Gil, who was feeling awkward, to say the least, he might be excused. Then the commander turned to an orderly before him and asked him something.

Nam Gil went over to the platoon leader, who was still calling "Rakdong." And the elderly-looking soldier, just assigned to the signal corps, extended his big hand to Nam Gil. Nam Gil was touched by this friendly gesture. How much the new man reminded Nam Gil on his good uncles back home.

The adjutant kept pacing back and forth, growling. Then he took over the receiver from the platoon leader. As if to outshout the platoon leader, he yelled into the speaker–"Rakdong." No response. He hurled down the receiver and grumbled: (To be continued)

Korean Cultural History (29)

Koryo Music, Dances

Paesol Literature, *Sijo*

(Continued from the previous issue)

Paesol literature (story) and *sijo* (a kind of short lyric poem) emerged in this period.

Unlike histories or the "orthodox" literature of the feudalistic aristocrats, *paesol* writings are stories written in interesting and varied ways about historical facts told from generation to generation, achievements and anecdotes of personages, literature and art, customs, morality, manners, politics, economy, and cultural life.

In the latter period of Koryo, *paesol* writings emerged in the course of collecting and assorting materials for Korean history and cultural inheritance. *Paesol* was despised and its literary merit and significance was not recognized for a long time.

Paesol writings were produced in large numbers from the latter period of the 12th century to the 14th century. "Pahan-chip" by Li In Ro was the first collection of *paesol*, published in 1260, 30 years after Li In Ro died. This collection in three volumes contained 300 of his stories on classics, records on culture and customs, stories on historical personages and writers, episodes on poems, etc. Episodes on poems are the central point of this collection where the writer's views on poetry are expressed.

Sijo appeared in a fixed form of verse in the Korean language. As *sijo* poems took a fixed form of verse, music was set to poems for singing. *Sijo* poems were recorded in the Li dynasty period.

Publication developed in the latter half period of the 12th century and the 14th century. More than 100 books on literature and art were published in this period, including "Tonggukmungam."

The "Tonggukmungam" was edited by Kim Dae Hyon (1261–1330) in the beginning of the 14th century as the first anthology to be edited in the medieval period of Korea. This is not extant but it is said that poetic and literary heritage was contained in it.

Large Nat'l Instrumental Orchestra

The main feature of the development of Koryo music between the 10th and the 14th century was that popular music developed remarkably, reflecting the sharpened class contradictions following the latter half of the 12th century and that ballads, prophetic songs and other works of popular music, expressing the thinking, sentiments and aspiration of the people opposing the foreign aggressors and the feudal rulers were created in no small numbers. Moreover, the creation and popularization of urban lyrical songs marked an important period in the development of songs in the feudal period of Korea. Further progress was also noted in court music, which served to strengthen and justify the system of centralized authoritarian rule.

In the Koryo period, a large orchestra was formed and new music bands were organized. Besides, with the development of dancing and music and dance performances, orchestras for entertainment made their appearance.

Most of these large orchestras and bands were organized mainly by the royal court. They served the court to entertain the feudal ruling classes.

It was between 1114 and 1116 that a fairly large orchestra appeared for the first time in Korea. According to documents, this orchestra which seemed to be organized by the royal court, had as many as 108 musicians and that its members totaled some 200, including the chorus and the dance troupe. It also had almost all national musical instruments which are available at present.

The orchestra started its activity after a few months' rehearsal following its inception.

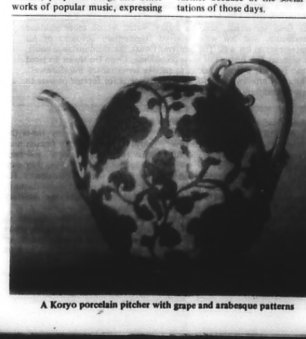
After the organization of orchestra, creative artistic activities were energetically developed. In particular, many hymns were composed, which praised the feudalistic system and aimed at heightening the "prestige" of kings.

In the instrumental music of the Koryo period the activities of bands held an important place.

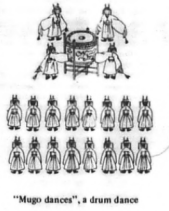
As in the earlier periods, they played mainly during the trips of sovereigns and royal families. Referring to the performances of a small scale band of those days in his book entitled "Illustrated Book on Koryo," Shuchin, a Chinese envoy who visited Koryo in the 12th century, writes: "The cavalry is followed by *uenap* (brass wind instruments) players and then by gongs and drums at an interval of 100 steps. The *uenap* players march on foot, now and then turning about and playing in concert for the palanquin, while gongs and drums are heard."

About 40–50 musicians were included in each band. The procession of a king consisted of a musical band of 100 musicians, four groups (40 persons in each group) and 18 attendants, 278 in all.

The large orchestra and chorus organized in the first half of the Koryo period did not develop further because of the social limitations of those days.



A Koryo porcelain pitcher with grape and arabesque patterns



"Mugo dances", a drum dance

They made progress only in the form of entertainment and ritual music, for their activity was restricted to serving the ruling classes and displaying their "dignity" in a narrow frame work of court music.

Dancing developed in a many-sided way in the Koryo period, with its style diversified, expression improved and with more professional dancers added.

"Mugo dances" and "Tongdong" dances were representative of the newly created dances of those days. As popular dances created by the people "Choyong dances" and "Mue dances," a kind of popular mask dance, are famous. These dances were not so large in scale and dancers played a more active role than music.

"Mugo dances" were drum dances created by Li Hon (1252–1312) when he was exiled to Nyonghae (Yongdok county, North Kyongsang Province). Two or three kinds of musical instruments were used as an accompaniment to the dances of the Silla period. In the Koryo period, a medium size orchestra played dance music. The orchestra was composed of stringed instruments such as *kayagum* (Korean instruments with strings), *komungo* (six-stringed instrument) and lutes, and wind instruments, including flutes and percussion instruments, including *changgo* (drums).

Originally, the mask dance dramas of Korea developed in a variegated way, maintaining its long tradition. However as it had been staged on a small scale among the people and in the court, it still had much to be desired in dramatic plots, dances and songs were incorporated to create a style of synthetic art called "sandaemuguk" in the latter half period of the Koryo period. This represented one of the important achievements in the development of popular music and dances in the feudal age of Korea.

In the late Koryo period, the masque was the major theatrical art. The "Choyong dances", which had been popular among the people from the 9th century, further improved in its contents and style to be perfected as a mask dance drama.

The central point of this mask dance drama is the "Song of Choyong". The song is sung by a singer, and Choyong, the hero of the drama, was portrayed by dances.

The dance failed to get out of the ritual and superstitious frame, but its song written in the popular language and its militant and vibrant movements driving away the god of plague by waving sleeves reflected the unsophisticated hope and aspirations of the people of the day.

The "Choyong dances" of the Silla period stressed moral issues and that of Koryo period laid stress on class antagonisms.

(To be continued)

NEWS DISPATCH FROM PYONGYANG

Aug. 8

* Cvijetin Mijatovic, President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, met Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam, a special envoy of President Kim Il Sung. Cvijetin Mijatovic declared that the League of Communists and Government of Yugoslavia would continue to make all efforts in the future, too, to expand and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in accordance with the agreement reached between Josip Broz Tito and President Kim Il Sung.

Aug. 11

* A delegation of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society headed by A.P. Shilin, Vice-Chairman of the CC of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society and Vice-Chairman of the CC of the Voluntary Society for Assisting the Army, Air Force and Navy of the USSR, flew to Pyongyang.
* A delegation of the Trade Unions International of the Textile, Clothing, Leather and Fur Workers headed by its General Secretary Jan Krix arrived in Pyongyang by air.

Aug. 12

* Burmese President U Ne Win met Hwang Jang Yop, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, who is a special envoy of President Kim Il Sung. The Burmese president stressed that Burma would continue to make every effort for the development of relations with Korea.

Aug. 13

* A government industrial delegation of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma headed by Brigadier-General Tint Swe, Minister of No. 1 Industry of Burma, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.
* A delegation of young activists of Japan-Korea solidarity movement of the Japan Socialist Party headed by Takeda Kenji, Member of the Central Youth Measures Com. of the Japan Socialist Party, flew into Pyongyang.
* Hwang Jang Yop, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly met U San Yu, General Secretary of the Burma Socialist Programme Party, and Prime Minister U Maung Kha. The Burmese general secretary expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries of Burma and Korea and two parties would further develop in the future.

Aug. 15

* A delegation of the Chinese "People's Daily," the organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, headed by Pan Fei, its Deputy Editor-in-Chief, arrived in Pyongyang by train.
* A delegation of the Kyoto Prefectural Dietmen's League for Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship headed by Takayama Yutaka, its Representative Director, flew into Pyongyang.

Aug. 18

* Kim Chung Nam was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.
* A delegation of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions headed by Herbert Irmscher, Member of its Central Committee, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.
* A Spanish Red Cross delegation headed by Enrique De La Mata, President of the Presidential Commission of the Congress of Deputies of the Spanish Parliament, Vice-President of the League of Red Cross Societies and Chairman of the Spanish Red Cross, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

Aug. 19

* Mustafa Jaber, Political Adviser to the Minister of Information of Jordan and Director of the Board of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, and his party arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

Aug. 22

* The teams of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary arrived in Pyongyang to participate in the International Junior Friendship Girl's Basketball Tournament of Socialist Countries to be held in Pyongyang.
* Datuk Hussein Onn, Prime Minister of Malaysia, met the government delegation of the DPRK headed by Vice-Premier Kim Gyong Ryon visiting Malaysia. The Malaysian prime minister expressed the belief that the desire and efforts of the Korean people for the peaceful reunification of the country would certainly bear fruits and highly appraised the positive role played by Korea in strengthening and developing the non-aligned movement.
* A Chinese scientific and technological cooperation delegation headed by He Pinzhang, Vice-Minister of Coal Industry of the People's Republic of China, arrived in Pyongyang by train to attend the 20th meeting of the Korea-China Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
* A delegation of national activists of the Japan Socialist Party headed by Tatebayashi Chisato, Member of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Socialist Party and Director of its People's Movement Department, arrived in Pyongyang by plane. (KCNA)

Do You Know?

Tonguibogam (Manual of Korean Medicine)

"Tonguibogam" (Manual of Korean Medicine) is an encyclopedia of traditional Korean medicine perfected in the 16th-17th centuries.

The celebrated Korean medical scientist Ho Jun (1545–1615) synthesized and analyzed the achievements of the traditional Korean medicine made till then at home and abroad and fully systematized the theories and therapeutic experiences which were considered as the cream of the traditional Korean medicine at the time, on the basis of the results of his long research and therapeutic experience.

It was printed in type in 1611 and reprinted many times in 1814, 1874 and later on. It was printed also in China and Japan many times.

It consisted of "Internal Medicine" (four volumes), "External Medicine" (four volumes), "Miscellaneous Diseases" (eleven volumes), "Medicinal Decoction" (three volumes), "Acupuncture and Moxacautery" (one volume), and "Index" (two volumes).

It treats genetics and anatomic physiology first and then deals with pathological problems and various diseases.

It gives anatomic, physiological and pathologic description of each disease and then refers to its origin, diagnosis, cure, aftereffect and prevention. This method meant a great progress in the descriptive system of medical books and shows that the book was more scientific and rational in descriptive system than other books at the time.

The book contains 4,497 kinds of prescriptions which were either applied by the author himself in practice or chosen by him as the best ones in medical practice.

The book, together with famous medical books "Hyangyakjibsongbang" and "Uibangryuchui," made a great contribution to the development of Korean traditional medicine as a classic medical book.

Implications of Sept. 14 Offer to End Defense Pacts with USSR, China

As frontpaged by the PK on September 20, the DPRK made a dramatic offer to end its military alliance with the Soviet Union and China if the present truce accord was replaced by a bilateral peace agreement with the U.S. President Kim Il Sung, making this proposal, denied any considerations of an attack on south Korea as unfeasible and counterproductive.

Quite visible is the determination of the DPRK leadership to defuse the tensions in Korea which make that part of Asia one of the most dangerous flashpoints in the world. The eighties face an imminence of a third global war. Reduction of tension in Korea would become a major boon to the efforts to preserve world peace and security.

Committed to world peace and security, the DPRK led by President Kim Il Sung is ready to negotiate the replacement of a precarious present ceasefire with a durable peace and remove elements which may invite foreign-power intervention. Pyongyang views a reunified Korea as nonaligned, independent, neutral and nuclear-free state, which would make the Korean Peninsula a peace zone, an example to be emulated for the eventual conversion of the Pacific Region into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

These factors make Korea a most dangerous tripwire to a third world war:

(1) the absence of a durable peace which is long overdue because of the failure to replace the present truce accord with a peace agreement as provided for in the armistice agreement;
(2) the deployment of American combat troops in south Korea, armed with nuclear weapons;
(3) Washington and Seoul are under a mutual defense treaty which authorizes the stationing of American troops in south Korea, while Pyongyang has defense treaties with Moscow and Peking;
(4) the division of Korea pits Pyongyang and Seoul against each other, with over one million strong troops massed on both sides of the DMZ;
(5) almost daily skirmishes of military nature along the DMZ, which are not reported in Central Europe, with a single calculation or overreaction starting a full-scale conflict.
(6) the installation of a classic garrison state, a police state in south Korea is justified by citing the alleged threat from the north, which is also a rationale for an arms buildup and the presence of U.S. combat forces in south Korea.

An end must be brought to big-power and foreign intervention in Korea, which has every likelihood of worldwide conflagration and is the root cause of the division of Korea and all the tensions between the north and the south. Most important is to legally and physically terminate the present belligerency involving Pyongyang, Peking and Washington. Despite the Sino-American normalization, the practice agreement keeps both Peking and Washington still at the state of war in Korea.

Regardless of whatever agreement between Moscow and Washington, both the Soviet Union and the U.S. have treaty obligations to be involved in any renewed Korean conflict. This time, there will be an unavoidable exchange of nuclear fire. Both Moscow and Peking must bury any existing difference in order to come to the aid of Pyongyang in the event of war with Seoul and Washington.

Given this scenario, the first thing is to bring together all the parties to the armistice agreement for the discussion of a new peace agreement which will end the state of war for good: Pyongyang, the Washington are the signatories of the truce accord, while Seoul did not sign it. Yet the south Koreans may be brought in as an observer in bilateral peace talks between the DPRK and the U.S.

Supposing the Americans are truly interested in the peace of Korea and the security of the world, they have no justifiable reason not to talk with the DPRK. The draft peace agreement Pyongyang conceives has two provisions concerning war climinals, war preparations and territorial issue but calls for an end to interference in each other's internal affairs, bans the introduction of weapons into Korea from abroad but with no ban on the acquisition of new weapons by the Americans in other parts than Korea, prohibits the use of force against each other, commits Korea not to tolerate the use of Korean soil by any foreign troops for whatever operations, but does not prevent the UN from being used by foreign troops. A most important provision of the draft peace accord is the withdrawal of any foreign forces from Korea, that is, American military withdrawal from south Korea.

The signing of such peace agreement and the ensuing termination of hostilities would make irrelevant the maintenance on the part of Pyongyang of its defense treaties with both the Soviet Union and China. Under such circumstances, would not see any evidence of the so-called threat from the north and feel the need to abrogate its military treaty with Washington, with American troops withdrawn from south Korea, Pyongyang and Washington pledging non-aggression against each other, and Moscow and Peking released from treaty obligations to be involved in any Korean clash.

A climate for improved mutual understanding and dialogue would be created in Korea, with both Pyongyang and Seoul eager for north-south reunification. The restoration of democracy would become a foregone conclusion in south Korea, with anti-Communism becoming senseless and outdated. In the absence of any hostility, the northerners and the southerners would be encouraged and able to live and let live, namely, with the respective existing systems left intact, with foreign economic concerns permitted to remain in south Korea. Eventually, north and south Korea would be placed under a loose confederation, whose foreign policy would be non-alignment, neutrality and independence.

Then, the Korean Peninsula would find itself a nuclear-free zone, peace zone.

KCNA on Seoul's Anti-Pyongyang Slanderous Campaign

A spokesman of the Korean Central News Agency issued the following statement on September 14:

These days the south Korean military fascist clique is committing a vicious smear campaign against our side.

On September 5 the south Korean reactionaries made public an announcement of the puppet ministry of defence on the question of frontline broadcast and, in its wake, issued a statement of the spokesman of the "coordination commission", a statement of the "acting foreign minister" and a statement of the spokesman of the "defence ministry" one after another, kicking up a big racket slandering us.

This is a foolish trick to declude public opinion, reversing black and white.

As for the frontline broadcasts, the provoker who started vilifying the other side first is the south Korean puppets and it is our side suffering from the south Korean side's provocation that should issue a statement of protest to say a word.

We resolutely denounce the foolish trick of the south Korean military fascist clique which, like a thief calling others thief, tries to shift onto our side the responsibility for the slander campaign on the Military Demarcation Line.

As is widely known, since the publication of the July 4 north-south joint statement, we have all along honestly implemented its point of agreement on suspending mutual accusations between the north and south.

On January 23 last year, we proposed, through a statement of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland calling for a new dialogue between the north and south, to discontinue at once accusations against the other side for creating a climate for national reconciliation and dialogue, and then took the step on our own initiative of suspending accusations against south Korea in the whole area of the northern half of the Republic from February 1.

This sincere step of ours for putting an end to the north-south confrontation and antagonism, promoting reconciliation and unity between them and paving the way of dialogue and peaceful reunification was actively supported and welcomed by the entire Korean people and the world people of broad segments.

The south Korean puppets have shown no positive response to our patriotic initiative but, on the contrary, further intensified their slanders, more maliciously speaking ill of our side.

In particular, slanders against us have been rapidly intensified as never before since the Chon Du Hwan military hooligans usurped power recently.

The Chon Du Hwan clique is not only frantically perpetrating anti-national, anti-communist propaganda through newspapers and radios. It also hurled malicious slanders at us on more than 1,500 occasions through loudspeakers installed at 47 places on the Military Demarcation Line in the period from
September 1 to 11.

No one can overlook such reckless act of the south Korean puppets in persistently committing the unilateral anti-north propaganda campaign by abusing our patient efforts proceeding from a sincere desire for national reunification.

There is a limit in patience and a provocation is bound to meet a counter-blow.

It is of no use for the Chon Du Hwan clique to carp on us belatedly, after starting the provocation first.

No matter how many times the south Korean military fascists may issue cheap "statements" and raise a hue and cry against us, they cannot shirk their responsibility for the repeated provocations committed against us on the Military Demarcation Line.

The smear campaign against us will only bring the Chon Du Hwan clique the miserable result of quashing its own toes with its own ax.

Korea Focus

Death Sentence of Kim

Kim Dae Jung is closer to death, despite an international barrage of protests. With shared values of democracy underlying international relations, member states of the world community have strongly protested against the death sentence imposed on him by the south Korean military court. The south Korean "Foreign Ministry" officials said on September 19, "The ROK Government will resolutely respond to them if they take an attitude of interfering with our internal affairs". The Chon Du Hwan junta, trampling underfoot democracy, sentenced an internationally-famous statesman to death without tangible proof in a way reminiscent of a medieval with trial. The Kim trial is an extension of the Kwangju massacre which received worldwide denunciations. It is only too natural for a democrat to protest such brutality. It is wrong not to do so.

The Times of London in its September 18 editorial wrote it has become clear that the trial of Kim Dae Jung is a complete setup, with its decision worked out in advance. The process of the trial leaves a clear impression that the martial-law authorities want to hang Kim right now.

As for charges against Kim, the first (July 4) announcement by the martial-law authorities cited violations of the "Anti-Communist Law". The August 1 indictment had not mention of violating that "law". Explaining the dropping of the application of the "law", the then army security commander and chairman of the Special Committee for National Security Measures, Gen. Chon Du Hwan told Japanese ruling-party Diet members Tazawa and Totsuka, "because we have faithfully followed the norms of the Japan-Korean political settlements". Yet, the indictment read out in the opening session of the court-martial on August 14 included the charge of violating the "Anti-Communist Law".

Moreover, the martial-law command announcement listed Pak Hyong Gyu as man in charge of national resurrection of the Korean Institute of Democratic Institutions, but the indictment referred to him as Kim Kwan Sop. At the 15th session, the prosecution dropped the sedition charge. In short, the charges brought by the martial-law authorities are mere hodgepodge.

Legal provisions which can justify a death penalty for Kim are only Paragraph 1, Article 1 of the "National Security Law", concerning the ringleader of an anti-state organization and paragraph 1, Article 87, the Penal Code, dealing with the ringleader of an insurrection. If the overseas activities were not taken into account as a judge said, it is impossible to invoke the "National Security Law" to sentence him to death. Then, the remaining legal basis is Article 87 of the Penal Code.

In this case, the charge against Kim must be that he organized and led the popular uprising in Kwangju. A proof produced by the prosecution in support of that charge is that Kim gave 300,000 won to Hong Nam Sung, leader of the South Cholla Provincial Chapter of the Society for Democratic and Constitutional Government as funds for organizational activities. Another piece of evidence is that Kim gave 5,000,000 won to Chong Tong Nyon, student of Chonnam University, a youth brought by Kim Sang Hyon, a colleague of his, when the student requested an aid of that sum to organize a popular uprising in the Kwangju district.

There must be sufficient examinations of whether such act warrants a death penalty. Such act was denied by Kim Dae Jung. The youth Chon Tong Nyon was not summoned to the military court for questioning. Objectively speaking, no enough argument was made to support the allegation that such is as grave as to be condemned as an anti-state crime. No physical evidence is available to apply Article 87 of the Penal Code. A man in prison cannot organize a riot, become its ringleader and lead it. Nevertheless, Kim was sentenced to capital punishment, showing the "National Security Law" was applied, which provides for a death penalty for the ringleader of an anti-state organization. No matter how a judge may explain, there is no denying that Kim was condemned to death by hanging solely for his activities abroad.

If Kim were not found guilty in connection with his activities abroad, Kim Sang Hyon who told him to give money to Chong and other codefendants should have drawn a death sentence under Article 87 of the Penal Code. The military tribunal authorities intend to cover up the truth when they failed to bare the full texts of the argument made by the prosecution in demanding a death penalty for Kim and the decision handed down on sentencing to him and as the south Korean "Foreign Minister" refused to explain the provisions of the "law" applied for the death sentence in his meeting with Japanese envoy Sunobe.

Now a certain source is spreading speculation that Kim will be ultimately spared his life. As a matter of fact, however, Kim, making his final statement, said his legacy would be no more political retaliation, and his wife received fragmentary accounts of his statements as his will. The Supreme Court, the third-instance court, is without five justices of some consideration. Chon Du Hwan declared "the ROK is not so weak as to receive unwarranted interference". The most effective step for the time being is for foreign powers to suspend military and economic aid to Seoul.

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